Extremities Worksheet

1. Describe the *stasis* in the play: where, when, who, what, etc. in a paragraph.

In present day new Jersey, three women, Terry, Patricia, and Marjorie, live in a farmhouse. A man who claims to be a member of a pothole digging crew, Raul, enters the house while Marjorie is there alone.

2. What is the *intrusion*?

Raul attempts to rape Marjorie but she is able to spray him with wasp spray and tie him up. She is so angry that she wants to bury him alive. Patricia and Terry want to call the police and bring the case to court instead of killing him.

3. What is the *unique factor*?

There is no evidence to support that Raul tried to Marjorie. He tells her that he would win the court case and come back and rape and kill her. This is the main reason why Marjorie wants to torture and kill him.

4. What is the *dramatic question* that should be answered by the end of the play?

Will Marjorie follow through with her promise to kill Raul or will Terry and Patricia convince her to have mercy on him?

5. Provide an illustration of the *two kinds of exposition* that the play has in it.

Basic knowledge of all the characters are provided by dialogue amongst them in the farmhouse

Only the audience, Raul, and Marjorie know of Marjorie’s relationship with Tony. However, this information becomes known to all the characters late in the play.

6. Identify the most *theatrical moment* in the play and of what importance it seems to be.

The most theatrical moment is when Marjorie tortures Raul with the knife using the same type of language that he used when he attempted to rape her.

7. List some of the *themes* of the play.

Do two wrongs make a right?

Objectification of women

8. What do the principal characters *want* and what are some *obstacles* that stand in the way of them getting what they want?

Marjorie wants to kill Raul but Patricia and Terry want her to call the police

Raul wants to go to police but Marjorie will have none of it

Raul wants to rape Marjorie but she sprays him with wasp spray

Marjorie wants justice but cannot call the police because she knows Raul will get away with it

9. Describe some possible *images* in the play and how does the *title* help us understand the play.

I am not sure how to answer this question. My only guess is that the title, *Extremities*, could represent the extremes that Marjorie is willing to go to achieve justice herself since it cannot be provided to her through the criminal justice system. Also, I think the wasp bite is a symbol of some sort but am not sure what it represents.

10. Briefly define the *family relationships* that are examined in the play.

Husband and Father (Raul)

Tony and Patricia/Marjorie